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Catholic Land Federation of England and Wales

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The Organ of the Catholic Land Associations of England and Wales.

QUARTERLY.

TWOPENCE

CHRISTMAS,
1943

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Vol. 10

The Cross and the Plough

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THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

ARISTOCRACY IN ACTION

The twenty-sixth of October last will be remembered. On that day the House of Lords heard the heralds of the Return. Not all, perhaps, were conscious heralds: they were constrained by truth: they deserve our salute.

Lord Teviot opened the debate—if we can so term a session where all the speeches, except one from the Government spokesman, were on the same side. He indicted the modern misuse of the land, deplored the current doping with artificials, and insisted that a Commission should investigate the incidence of the undoubted connection between true soil fertility and the health of plants, animals and men.

He was followed by Lords Portsmouth, Geddes, Bledisloe, Warwick and Glentanar. Although more than one of these names has been associated with Big Business, all stressed, with abundant evidence, the reality of the danger and the urgency of action.

It was left for the Duke of Norfolk, Premier Duke and Earl Marshal of England, to say on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture that *there was no evidence whatever that . . .*

Quotation within the limits of our space would be unjust to the distinguished speakers. The occasion was classic; the evidence massive and conclusive.

All supporters of the Land Movement should secure a copy of the record of this historic turning point. (Parliamentary Debates: House of Lords: Vol. 129, No. 98, 26th October, 1943. H.M.S.O., 6d. net).

The thirty-five pages concerned are weighty but not heavy. They make very pleasant and encouraging reading.

The occasion received disgracefully little notice in the Press. Among Catholic papers,

The Catholic Herald was an honourable exception. *The Tablet* preferred to enlarge, that week, on "saving, investment, and development," with special reference to the Suez Canal and the Zambesi Bridge, as the main need for the restoration of diffused property. As Mr. Chesterton might have said, *the identification has been held to be incomplete.*

HOME TO ROOST

The National Farmers' Union News Sheet for 30th August reported trouble with grain drying, and difficulty in marketing because of the fear of buyers that damage may have been caused by the process.

Obviously, grain must be cut before it is dead ripe, otherwise it will not be possible to harvest it. It used to dry and ripen naturally in stook and rick before threshing. The Combine Harvester is the enemy of sound farming because of the logical fallacy of supposing that immature corn can be threshed, and then artificially dried, without suffering loss of quality and integrity.

OPEN CONFESSION

In the same News Sheet for 23rd September, the complete answer is given. "*When you grow cereals for seed*" blows a number of gaffs, among which we give two without comment. *Corn crops for seed should not be sown on land which has just previously grown the same cereal.*

The threshing machine is Enemy No. 1 of pure seed corn.

REFUSAL OF ABSOLUTION

One would have thought that the rich alluvial land in the Eastern parts of England, especially such as Lincolnshire and the Isle of Ely, would have resisted the effects of abuse for at least one generation. So thought the sound business men who have been going in for extensive monoculture in those parts. They



"It's all right, he can sanctify his labour"

SATAN & CO. WHOLESALE DEGRADATION DEPARTMENT



have discovered, like other sinners, the worm that dieth not. *The Daily Telegraph* of 11th and 12th October reports that "Farmers in the Eastern counties are greatly perturbed over evidences of a serious loss of fertility." The National Farmers' Union County Branch, it is stated, has induced N.F.U. Headquarters to institute national enquiries. Lack of organic manure, and eel-worm in potatoes and sugar beet, are freely mentioned. Five or six potato crops in succession are said to be common.

There is an alarming tendency for some of these soil miners to migrate inland and start monoculture in districts where it is hitherto unknown. Offenders should be, not farming, but in prison.

And all this is a most gratifying overture to the four-thousand-acre symphony we are promised after the war.

TAILPIECE

"A new and important factor has recently been discovered. One of our mycologists working on this plot discovered *Cercospora*,

a fungus which attacks the stem at its base and so intensifies the lodging. This fungus was first observed at Rothamsted about eight years ago, though it had probably been in the soil for some time. It accumulates in the soil, and is probably one of our coming tribulations, for it is spreading widely in the country, and it is favoured by the great extension of wheat-growing and the high nitrogenous manuring that war conditions impose on us. Fortunately Broadbalk had revealed the disease in peace time, when there was leisure and facility for making the scientific studies that necessarily precede any sound recommendations for treatment. . . . The Broadbalk results show that, apart from disease, the yield of wheat can be kept up indefinitely by proper artificials."—From "Broadbalk," by Sir John Russell, F.R.S., in *The Countryman*, Autumn, 1943.

Apart from disease is good. Really, Sir John, we expected something better from you, if only by way of Parthian shot.

A CENTENARY

THE ECONOMIST, 1843—1943

ON 4th September, *The Economist*, an enemy dear to us because it always says what it means, celebrated its hundred years. Or, as it was careful to say, issued a special number to commemorate the beginning of its second century. The substantial number is divided between a history of its past, and an assessment of the circumstances launching it into its future.

It will be no surprise to our readers to learn that this considerable opponent of social justice is controlled, by not economists, who would be bad enough, but by financiers. On page 291 it is announced that half the shares are owned by *The Financial News, Ltd.*, and half by "a strong group of individual shareholders." Of this second strong group it is reasonable to suppose—almost impossible not to suppose—that one at least is also a financier. We may take it as established that *The Economist* is controlled, as world economy has been controlled hitherto, by Finance.

"It was, and is (says the Editor on page 292), a journal of public affairs with its own special approach, the quantitative approach of the political economist, trained to try every argument or doctrine by reference to facts and figures."

Let us judge it by this terrible statement. In an issue discussing the quantitative approach of a hundred years, there is no single mention of the fact which dominates the century. In 1843 the new vast lands beyond the seas were rich and virgin. In 1943, after a century of *The Economist's* quantitative approach, those new vast lands are largely destroyed by quantitative erosion: the remainder are fighting a losing battle against the quantitative approach of finance; and our Minister of Agriculture, with other experts and publicists, is warning us officially of a world shortage of food which impends upon us.

No word in the issue breaks this terrible silence. In the whole issue we have been able to trace only four references to agriculture. In the first, James Wilson, founder and first editor, describes *The Economist* as "a

medium of practical usefulness to commerce, manufacture and agriculture" (p. 291). The order, in 1843, was a portent.

There is a passing reference to "Colonial Agriculture" on page 318, and two notes at pages 388 and 340 on Indian Food and Rationing respectively.

"Every element of enforced self-sufficiency," says *The Economist* virtuously, "is an element of poverty" (p. 299). We are told that it opposed the Crimean War, the Boer War, and the Great War (p. 298). On its prior attitude to the present war it is discreetly silent.

Nevertheless these wars happened: and prescinding from other causes, they happened because gluttony must be followed by purging or vomiting. But of this, the second greatest fact of the century, *The Economist* is also unaware.

So, Carthage being destroyed, let us turn to the future. Discussing the social problems, and the planning of the Post-War, the Editor says (p. 305) "During the war there has been compulsion to an unprecedented extent, but the basis of the effectiveness of this compulsion has been universal consent . . . If the same willingness to contribute in a positive way to the common task can be secured, the peace effort can be accomplished with equal success."

That is to say, because when mere existence is at stake we hold together like the insect communities, reducing our personal rights to little or nothing, we are to accept the same basis for the peace. We are to be compelled, and like it.

We may be forgiven an overflow meeting. In its issue of 16th October (p. 512), discussing the British agriculture of the future, it says: "*The right agricultural policy for this country, after abnormal war and post-war conditions have gone, should be designed to ensure the minimum production of the traditional arable crops required for the efficient management of the land, and the maximum production of the nutritional foods required for national health.*" THE OPPOSITE

POLICY of maintaining as large as possible an acreage under the plough was rejected as uneconomic, over-expensive and unnecessary even for defence reasons."

The capitals are ours, and no further comment seems necessary.

No wonder *The Economist* had said on 9th October (p. 488) "*It may be, of course, that when the people are frankly told of the extent to which full employment and fair distribution . . . involve official oversight over individual rights of choice, some may ask whether the game is worth the candle.*"

Quite so. Some, or most, will certainly do so. And we may reasonably think that if *The Economist*, in spite of its clarity of statement, persists in ignoring the hugest facts

even in its own world, it will not live to see its second century out. It is extremely curious that it sees this point quite clearly where commercial crises are already upon us. Discussing the Coal Crisis on 16th October (p. 511) it says: "It is, of course, a familiar politician's trick to excuse himself from taking thought for the morrow by stressing the need of to-day; and to go on doing this, year after year, without even being aware of any inconsistency."

But the same politician's trick, to use its own euphemism, will not save it for another century when food, the prime quantitative need of mankind, has been made inaccessible to our race, as to other races, by the same quantitative approach.

ALTERNATIVE TO DEATH

Alternative to Death: The Relationship between Soil, Family and Community, by the Earl of Portsmouth (Faber and Faber: 8/6 net)

THE Earl of Portsmouth has great claims on the attention and respect of our readers as Viscount Lymington. If our race has retained the qualities for which he and we value it, his present title precedes a greater fame.

We know Viscount Lymington as an apostle of sanity and common sense—an authority on the technique of agriculture disputed by none. Lord Portsmouth has gone further. He has achieved wisdom. Five years of intensive public effort to undo the wicked neglect of generations, in order that our name may not perish from the earth, have given him the final clue to our deadly peril.

"Later, our alliance with Russia and the United States, the two greatest machine-driven powers in the world, has urged me to continue. Whatever the benefits and glowing hopes conferred by this alliance, its influence on ourselves and the future of the world must inevitably drown the peculiar value of any English contribution, unless we search the depths of our own tradition and character for the strength to use our native ways to redeem our own land and teach the world that the machine must be the servant and not the master." (p. 5).

"I believe that should we treasure the earth, and restore to man the dignity of his hands for craftsmanship and the spirit of working in unity of purpose, fertility will return to his body" (p. 6).

"I dare affirm that for England and for each of the nations in its own way, there is no alternative to death except to seek adjustment in humility with Nature; our own natures, the soil's nature, the nature of each growing life therein, and with that order and still half-guessed harmony of all things, which we call God" (p. 7).

"The fundamental history of civilisation is the history of the soil. The understanding of this is vital to all peoples who stand at the gateway of death. The whole white civilisation stands there to-day. In any civilisation there comes a moment when, if it is to continue, civilisation must become ruralisation" (p. 11).

These extracts are a noble exordium for a noble argument. We have quoted at some length in order to convey the sweep of it. The author develops it, with all his knowledge of things and words, in 180 pages which are indispensable ammunition for us.

He sums up, after a wealth of incontestable proof, in the words "All economy and policies must be unsound which do not attempt to bring wholeness to the individual, to the family, to the village and locality, to the nation, and ultimately to the Empire and international relationship" (p. 161).

That is the right basis and the right order, in sharp contradistinction to that of the fashionable planners. For "We are rapidly being planned into an ant-like community without stature or status" (p. 164).

This point, made often by ourselves, is so clear that the wonder is that it is not being shouted from every housetop.

But does Big Business get it? What cares Big Business for the future of any race? It has been infuriated especially because Lord Portsmouth, in his enquiry as to what is primary, has found it necessary to be fair to the Middle Ages, and to be explicit (with names) about modern ages. Not that he ignores the shadows in the past, or the snags in the future, but he sees things steadily and he sees them whole. Not even that we are bound to assent to every one of his proposals, but that is a point of detail and not of structure.

As might have been expected, the Big Business Press has excelled even its own powers of misrepresentation and sheer rudeness in reviewing this book. No doubt Lord Portsmouth takes that (as we do) for high compliment.

From the London Press reviews, all, so far as we have observed, of the same type, we take two specimens.

Let it be on record, if only in these modest pages, that when a great authority proposed *Alternative to Death*, Mr. George Murray, in the *Daily Mail* of 1st October, said: "This, I should say, is utterly impracticable."

And Sir William Beach Thomas, in *The Observer* of 3rd October, said:

You would infer that England was heading straight for the abyss, that nearly all modern beliefs, tastes and habits were a mortal poison. The red label is attached to an exorbitant list: to Hollywood and the films, to chain stores . . . to fir trees, to omnibuses bent for the nearest town, to the

dole, the head-line Press, latifundia, mass production, death duties, and so on, and so on.

And a very good inference too: but Sir William, doubtless, knows his public.

BURNING BUSH

The riotous flames of autumn spread
From lowly weed to tree-top without sound;
The bushes burn, nor crackle—bow, O head—
Remembering the word that once was said—
"The place whereon thou stand'st is holy ground."

Oh! burning bushes! set my heart aflame
With awe for holiness—bronze, copper,
gold,
Beat from the hedgerows the high word that came
To Moses in the desert—call my name!
Beat on your metal gongs, be clamorous bold

To tell me, here, here where I stand
Is holy—holy earth—dare I but see
Holiness:—here where GOD shows His hand
Outstretched in wonders on the flaming land
Hallowing the Here and Now into Eternity.
—A. LINK.



Hail, full of Grace, The Angel stands,
But you see Life within your hands.

—H.R.

WHEAT IMPORTS AND INDUSTRIALISM

By H. R. BROADBENT

GREAT Britain ranked as a wheat exporting country to the end of the 18th century. The year 1792 was the last of the century in which exports exceeded imports. There has since been one other year, 1808, in which the exports were in excess⁽¹⁾ but this year was a freak and has never been repeated. With this one exception, therefore, imports of wheat in Great Britain have always exceeded exports since and including the year 1793.

The bulk of the published statistics of imports relate to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The majority of information on imports in this article refers therefore to the United Kingdom. The application of the figures will, however, be given in each case.

Although the excess of imports over exports commenced at the end of the 18th century, it was not until the middle of the 19th century that imports grew to large proportions. The diagrams which follow show:—

Diagram I.—

(a) Decennial Averages of Wheat Imports into the United Kingdom since the early part of the 19th century. The beginning of the 19th century is covered by imports into Great Britain.

(b) The Population of the United Kingdom in each census year from 1821.

(c) The Acreage under Wheat in the United Kingdom from the average of the four-year period 1867-70 to the average of the seven-year period 1931-37.

Diagram II.—Quantities of Wheat imported into the United Kingdom from each of the principal wheat exporting countries.

- (1) Wheat and wheat flour
1808 Exports from Great Britain,
98,005 qrs. = 420 thousand cwt.
1808 Imports into Great Britain,
84,889 qrs. = 364 thousand cwt.

Diagram III.—The United Kingdom population for which the wheat requirements were available from imported sources.

Appendices give further details of these Diagrams.

It will be seen from Diagram I that the growth of imports of wheat became accelerated in the middle of the 19th century and continued to the beginning of the present war. During this period, therefore, an increasing number of industrial workers were maintained in their wheat requirements from imported grain and flour. This is evident from Diagram III.

During the first half of the 19th century industrial conditions were bad. There is evidence for this in the various enquiries into factory and mine conditions. The use of children in factories and mines was common at the beginning of the century. It has been said⁽²⁾ that under the early factory system the employment of masses of children was the foundation of industry. They were at work in factory and mine from a very early age and, with their elders, for long hours and under unwholesome conditions. Legislation was introduced at the beginning of the century in an attempt to force improvements and raise the age of entry into employment. It was opposed by manufacturers because of their fear for its effect on trade. Manufacture in this country was competing in a foreign market and it was considered that if a change were made to raise the standard of living the factories would be unable to continue. When the clause in the 1802 Factory Act concerning the education of children in working hours was discussed, it was suggested that no doubt education was desirable, but to take an hour or two from the twelve working hours would amount to a surrender of all the profits of the

(2) "The Town Labourer," J. L. & B. Hammond.

establishment⁽³⁾. The cotton mill owners giving evidence before the House of Commons Committee of 1816 were all in agreement that legislative interference with hours of child labour would spell ruin to the country and put money in the foreigner's pocket⁽⁴⁾. When the Bill limiting hours of work was before the House it was opposed with the argument that "The low rate at which we have been able to sell our manufacture on the continent in consequence of the low rate of labour here had depressed the continental manufacture and raised the English much more than any interference could do."

There is evidence also of the dearth of food during the first half of the century in the agitation for repeal of the Corn Laws. Pressure was brought to bear for an increase in the import of food for the industrial population. This demand was opposed by the growers of corn in this country who feared that importation would mean their own ruin.

Agriculture, in spite of the change in methods of cultivation during the 18th century, was not producing as it could. Cobbett in 1818 wrote of Devonshire, Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, Hampshire and other counties "you will see hundreds of thousands of acres of land where the old marks of the plough are visible but have not been cultivated for perhaps half a century. You will see places that were once considerable towns and villages now having within their ancient limits nothing but a few cottages, the parsonage and a single farm-house."⁽⁵⁾

The manufacturers opposed any changes in working conditions, the growers of wheat opposed the increase in imports of food and the land was not fully farmed. It was no wonder that the industrial population suffered.

From the middle of the 19th century a change took place in the industrial world in the general attitude towards factory legislation. It has been noted⁽⁶⁾ that "the conversion of public opinion between 1845 and 1860 was curiously rapid and complete." Sir James Graham in 1860 recanted his objection to the Factory Act, saying in the House that it had "contributed to the comfort and well being of

the working classes without materially injuring the masters." At a meeting of manufacturers held in Birmingham in 1867 to oppose the division of workplaces into factories and workshops, "no great bitterness was shown, nor was it suggested as had so frequently been the case twenty or thirty years before that the trade of the country would be ruined for want of the last hour of children's labour."⁽⁷⁾

From the middle of the 19th century the imports of wheat into this country commenced to rise steeply. The repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 removed the bar to the entrance of wheat in large quantities imposed by the scale of tariffs and with the turn the dearth of bread ceased. The imports of wheat and flour during the decade 1851-1860 were sufficient to cover the wheat requirements of the whole of the populations of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Staffordshire.

Diagram IV repeats the curve of imports of wheat into the United Kingdom and shows in addition the aggregate of the Acts affecting Factories, Mines and Quarries⁽⁸⁾ during the 19th century. It will be seen that the acceptance of legislation on factories and mines follows the rise of imports. With the imports the obstruction faded. It was found that it was possible to compete with the foreigner and improve the factory and mine conditions simultaneously. The shadow of lack of food had gone.

From Diagram III it is possible to obtain a picture of the extent to which our industrialism has been dependent on imported food. As an example, in the last thirty years and the first thirty years of the present century we have received on an average sufficient wheat grain and wheat flour from the U.S.A. alone to meet the wheat requirements of over ten million of our population. Industrialism has grown on imported food.

The other side of the picture is contained in the following extract from the 1938 Year Book of the U.S. Department of Agriculture—the result of the 1934 Soil Survey of the U.S.A.

(5) "A Year's Residence in America." Cobbett.
(6) "A History of Factory Legislation," by B. L. Hutchins and A. Harrison.

(7) Ibid.

(8) "Ex History of Labour," Gilbert Stone.

(3) and (4) Ibid.

"(1) On 37%—700,500,000 acres (= over 1/2 area of Europe) mostly flat, gently undulating or forest, erosion has been slight, less than 1/4 of the original surface soil has been lost.

(2) On 41%—775,600,000 acres (= over 1/2 area of Europe) erosion has been moderate, from 1/4 to 3/4 of the original surface soil has been lost.

(3) On 12%—225,000,000 acres (= combined areas of France and Great Britain) erosion has been severe, more than 3/4 of the original surface has been lost.

(4) 3%—57,200,000 acres of the land area (more than twice the area of arable plus

grass land of England and Wales) has by now been essentially destroyed for tillage.

(5) About 7 1/2 %—144,700,000 acres, consists of mesas, canyons, scablands, bad lands and rough mountain land. Overgrazing and other abuses have caused moderate to severe erosion."

The Report states: "The basic reason [for the decline in productivity] in all cases is unwise use of the land."

It would appear that the present basis of our economics is unstable. How much remains of the arguments for our future which are founded on the industrialism of our past? The word "cheap" has lost its meaning.

APPENDIX I

(Ref. Diagram I)

The figures for Wheat Imports and Exports have been taken from Parliamentary Papers, Board of Trade Accounts and Papers, Annual Statement of Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom, Statistical Abstracts and Trade of the United Kingdom.

Acreage under wheat has come from the Statistical Abstracts. The year 1867 is the first for which official records are available.

Population figures are census figures. The Census of 1821 is the first for which the basis compares with subsequent years.

The higher figure for Imports into Great Britain than for Imports into the United Kingdom is due to the Imports from Ireland into Great Britain exceeding the Total Imports into Ireland. A reconciliation for the year 1842 is given below:—

(a) Imports of Foreign and British Possession Wheat into United Kingdom—

Grain: 2,717 thousand qrs.	=	11,640 thousand cwt.
Flour: 1,130 thousand cwt.	=	1,413 " "
		<hr/>
	Total	13,053

The above includes Imports into Ireland which

(b) For 1842 were Grain + Flour as equivalent grain = 583 " "

Deducting from above gives

Imports into Britain from Foreign and British Possessions = 12,470 " "

To this must be added

(b) Imports into Great Britain from Ireland = 866 " "

Total Imports into Great Britain = 13,336 " "

This compares with the

Total Imports into Great Britain given in Parliamentary Paper

No. 177/1843 13,330 " "

(a) Ex Tables of Trade 1850.

(b) Ex Parliamentary Paper No. 537/1852.

APPENDIX II

The Imports and Exports for Ireland during the critical period when it changed from a Wheat Exporting to a Wheat Importing country are shown below.
IRELAND.—Wheat, Wheat Meal and Wheat Flour (Ex Parliamentary Papers 537/1852 and 222/1853)

YEAR	IMPORTS INTO IRELAND		EXPORTS FROM IRELAND TO GREAT BRITAIN	NET	
	FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS	FROM GREAT BRITAIN		EXPORTS	IMPORTS
	1,000's QRS.	1,000's QRS.	1,000's QRS.	1,000's QRS.	
1842	136	64	202	2	
1843	11	54	413	348	
1844	73	36	440	331	
1845	25	31	779	723	
1846	95	192	393	106	
1847	365	543	184		724
1848	332	217	305		244
1849	606	116	235		487
1850	814	162	177		799
1851	1058	244	95		1207
1852	856	312	56		1112

Note.—For Wheat, 1 quarter = 480-lbs. = 8 bushels = 4.285 cwt.

APPENDIX III (Ref. Diagram I)

The imports of wheat into the United Kingdom as decennial averages have been shown in Diagram I as a combined figure of wheat as grain and wheat flour and meal as equivalent grain. It is statistically the practice to make the flour figure available for combination with the grain figure by increasing the former to the figure of the original grain prior to milling and extraction of the flour. Up to 1881 it was assumed that 80 per cent. extraction occurred, i.e., 80 per cent. of the milling was taken as flour and 20 per cent. was left as "offals," bran and middlings. In the 1880's a change took place in the method of milling. This change was covered statistically by a reduction in the percentage extraction of flour. The figure was reduced by 1 per cent. each year from and including the year 1882 to the year 1889 when the figure of 72 per cent. was reached. This value of extraction, 72 per cent., has been used from that date to the last published statistics for the year 1939.

The combined figure of wheat grain plus wheat flour and meal as equivalent grain has value in giving a general picture of the wheat imports. If any conclusions are to be deduced from it or calculations of acreage be based on it, its origin must be appreciated.

APPENDIX IV (Ref. Diagram II)

The amounts of wheat grain and wheat flour and meal imported into the United Kingdom from each of the principal wheat exporting countries have been shown separately in Diagram II. Each column represents the wheat imported during 10 years. It will be noted that the country is not country of "Origin" or country of "growth," but country of "shipment" up to and including 1903 and country of "consignment" from thence onwards.

Considerable shipments of wheat to the United Kingdom took place from, for instance, the Hanse Towns during the early part of the 19th century, but it would not be possible without considerable research to say where the crops were grown.

It will be noted that the diagram commences in the middle of the 19th century. Reference to Diagram I will show that the growth of imports to any considerable proportions occurred about this time.

APPENDIX V (Ref. Diagram III)

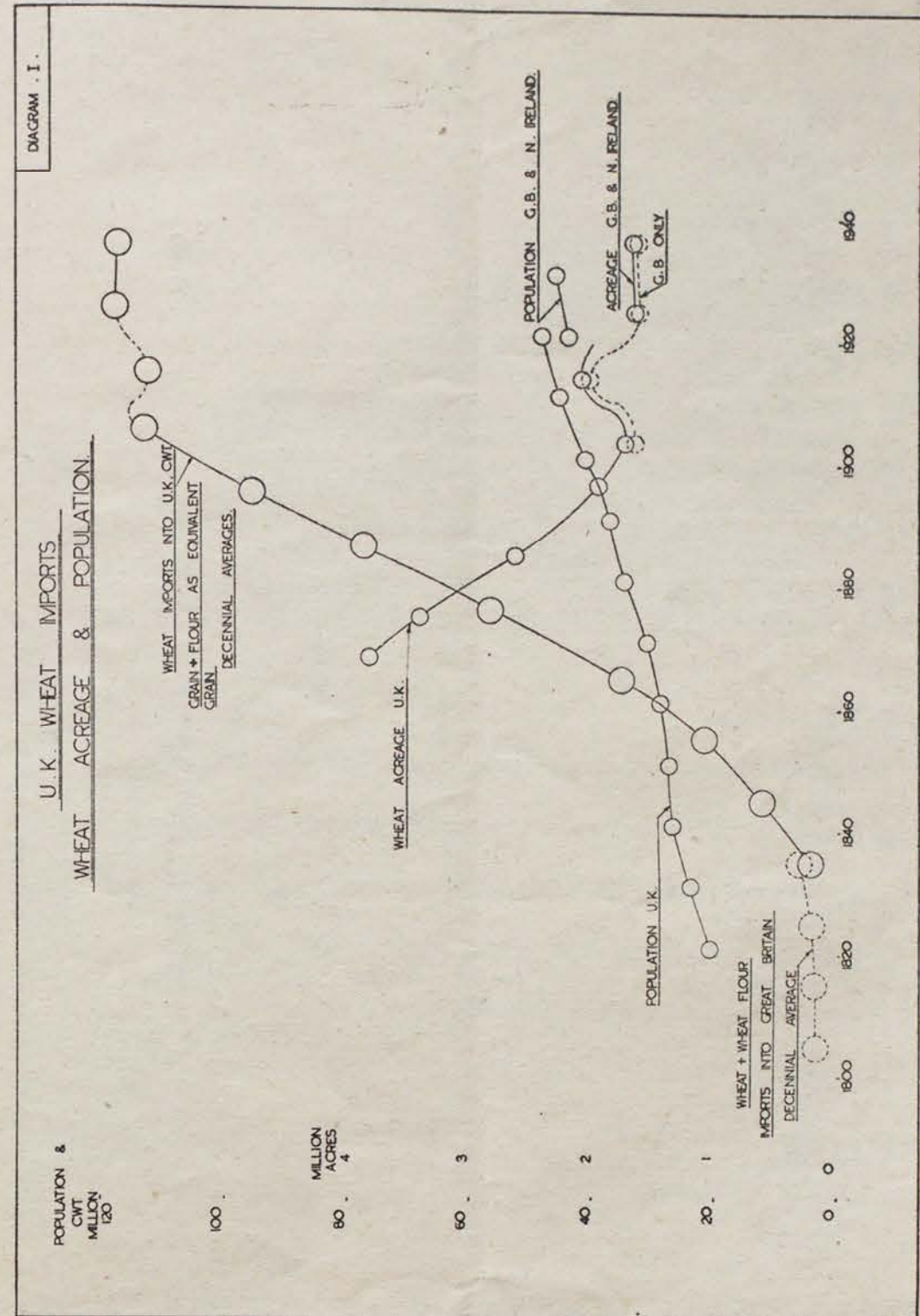
Diagram III shows the population of which the wheat requirements were available from imports received from countries outside the United Kingdom. It is derived from Diagram II on the basis of a requirement of 1-lb. per head of population per day for grain and 3-lb. per head of population per day for flour. As a combined figure of wheat plus flour as equivalent grain the average for the years 1931-35 inclusive was 350-lbs.

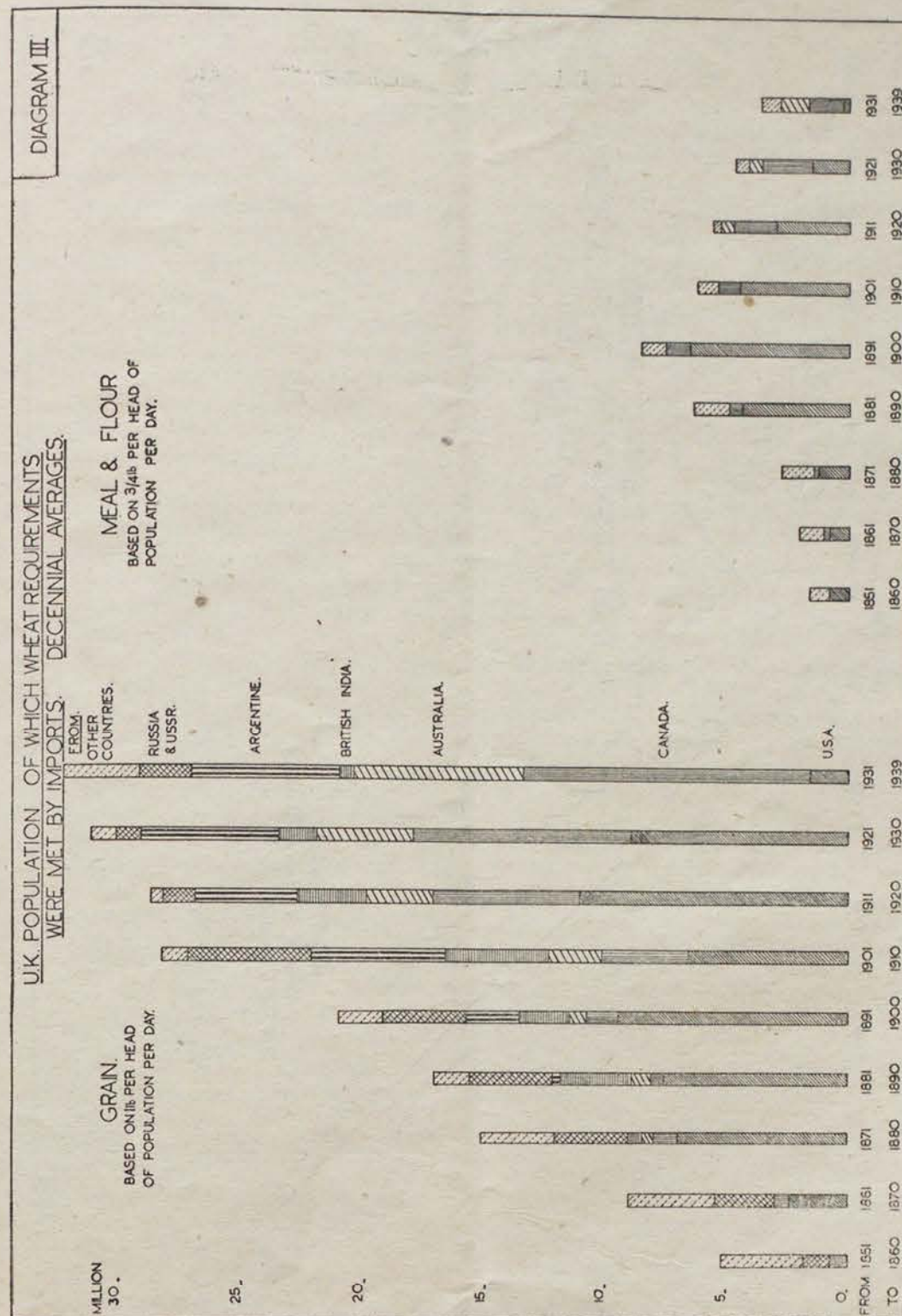
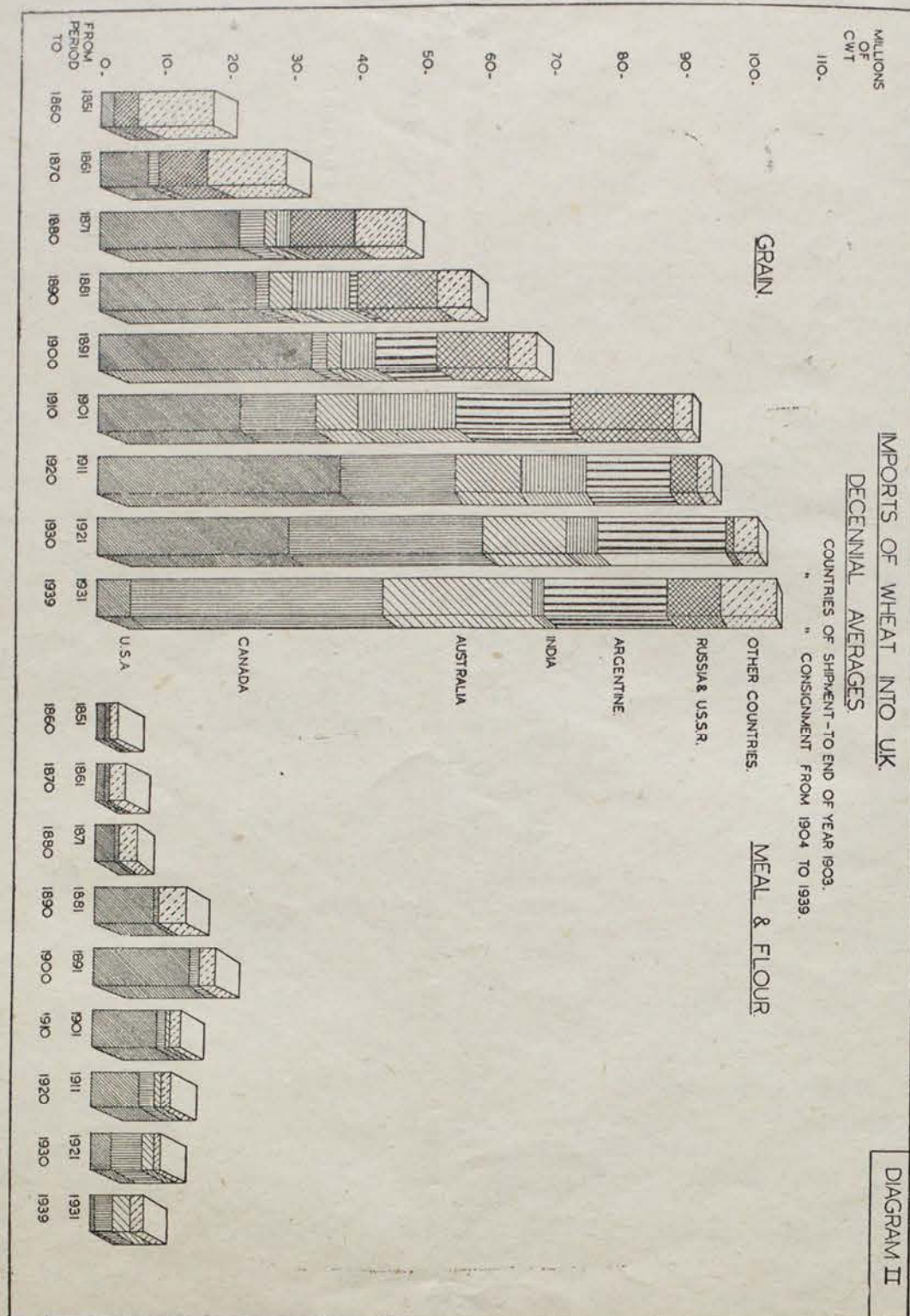
The word "requirement" is used rather than "consumption" as the wheat is consumed partly as bread and other flour products and partly as animal products.

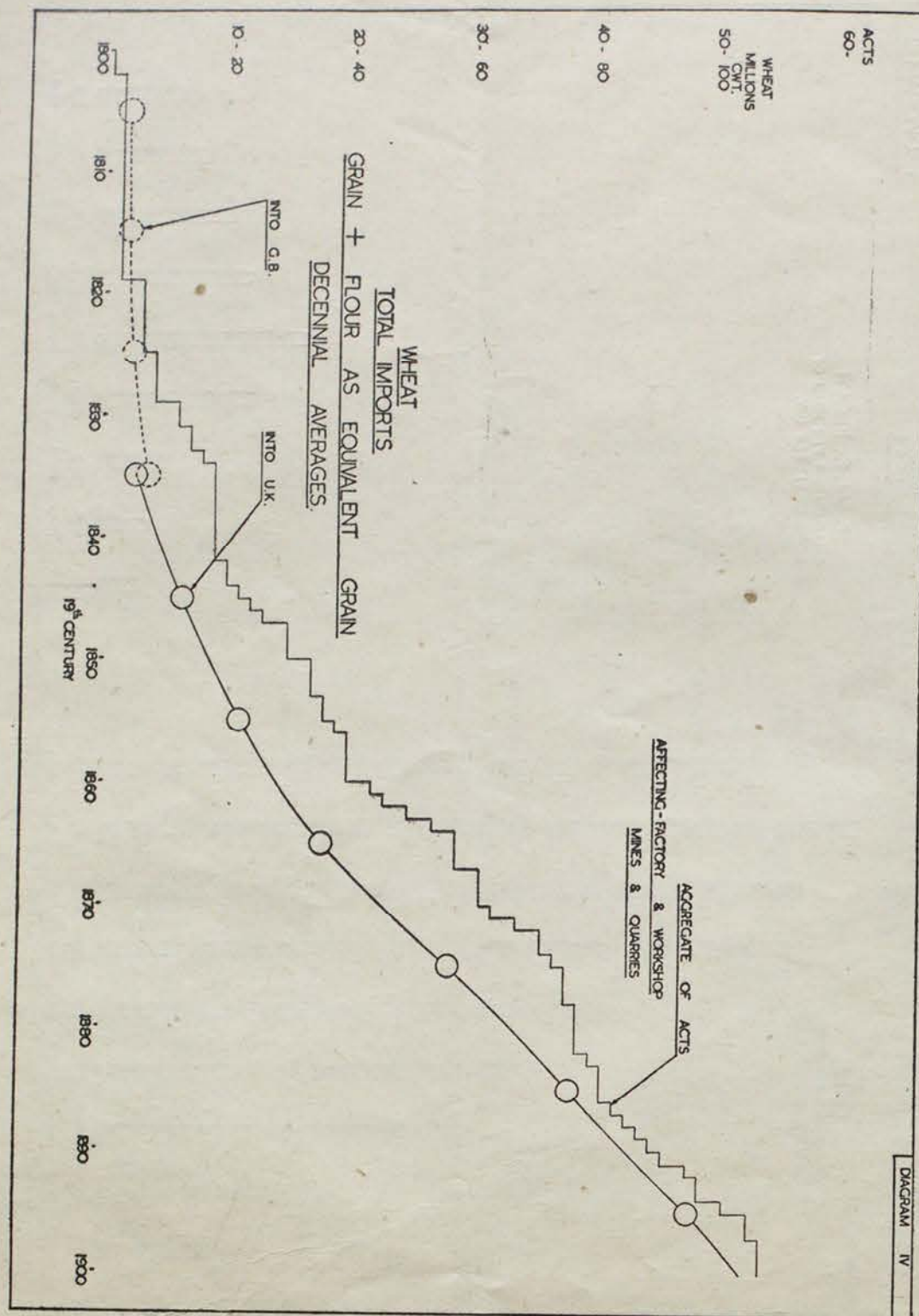
It should be noted that from 1st April, 1923, particulars relating to Imports include the Trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland first with the Irish Free State and then with Eire.

APPENDIX VI (Ref. Diagram IV)

The Acts plotted on Diagram IV are those shown on page 287 of "The History of Labour" by Gilbert Stone. The list is not complete if it be considered as one which includes all Acts affecting factory and mine workers. The Truck Acts are not included, nor the Sanitary Act of 1866, the Public Health Act of 1875, and the various Elementary Education Acts. Whilst a numerical aggregate of the Acts does not give weight to the important Acts, nor show which were Amending Acts, it indicates the growing awareness of the need for interference and the increasing extent of legislation to improve the material conditions of factory and mine workers. Imports, and principally food imports, made this possible.







OF JUSTICE

By PHILIP HAGREEN

THROUGHOUT the Old Testament, after the worship of God, justice is the duty and virtue most insistently taught. It is the just man who is praised, and injustice, especially to the poor, that is denounced.

In the New Testament the theme is the same, but the loving kindness that visits the afflicted and gives more than a pittance to the poor is shown to be a necessary flower of justice. In Our Lord's account of how he will judge us, given in the 25th chapter of St. Mathew, it is only the corporal works of mercy that are mentioned as our means of salvation.

Now Charity pre-supposes justice. Injustice needs repentance and amendment and also restitution. What a man gains by injustice is not his own. Until restitution is complete he has nothing to give. A man may have the virtue of chastity and yet have the sin of pride. He may have the virtue of humility and yet have vices of the flesh. But he cannot perform the works of charity unless he is in a state of justice. Justice is therefore necessary to salvation.

The Church taught this doctrine until towards the end of the Middle Ages. There was always a great deal of injustice, but the Church kept it, if not in check, at least in disgrace.

As commercialism grew, the opportunities and temptations of avarice increased. Clergy and laity alike grabbed what they could, and the clergy grabbed the most. Clerics held sinecures. Monasteries added field to field and barn to barn.

When the storm of heresy struck the ship of Peter in the 16th century, all hands were called to pump out the errors. The ship was saved, with the sacraments intact, but justice had gone by the board.

The loss of this essential part of the moral code is hidden from us by a thing called honesty. We live in, and by, injustice and we pride ourselves that our dealings are honest. The most flagrant injustices may be regular

and above-board. A business may be unjust in its very nature: it may depend on the helplessness of its employees, on the ignorance or vices of its customers, on manipulation of markets and prices and the ruin of competition. But its contracts are fulfilled, its dividends are paid, its accounts audited and its balance-sheet published. All concerned are honoured for their honesty and thanked for their charity if they give from their thievings.

In business affairs, Catholics, clerical and lay, are indistinguishable from unbelievers. Their spiritual home is Manchester. Justice is not practised: it is not known. The idea of justice has been absent from our minds for four hundred years. Methods that were counted as sins crying to Heaven for vengeance are now not thought to be matter for confession.

There has recently been talk of Social Justice. This commonly means that individuals need not change their ways and our economic system can remain, but that the State should make adjustments so that the more conspicuous victims of injustice may be provided for.

Concerning Chastity, the Church has maintained her teaching. In order to show ourselves how justice has been abandoned and forgotten, let us imagine the state of things that would exist if, instead of the graver matter of Justice, Chastity had been jettisoned.

The parallel to our business methods would be unrestrained promiscuity. If that were practised by all ranks of the Clergy, the Religious and the Laity for some centuries, the very names of the sins against chastity would be forgotten, or remembered only as archaisms. The mention in the confessional of adultery, fornication or contraception would send the priest to a book of reference. He would wonder what mediaeval superstition had aroused scruples in the penitent.

This is exactly what has happened to the sins against justice—FORESTALLING, REGRATING and USURY.

BROADBUNK

By CAPT. H. S. D. WENT

EVER since the first suggestion was made of a return to agricultural sanity we have had Broadbalk hurled at our heads with a regularity that has become monotonous. During the last two years, however, a counter-attack has developed, and the time has now come when an estimate of the extent to which the debunking of Broadbalk has succeeded will be useful.

Broadbalk is a field at Rothamsted Experimental Station, which was for many years devoted to experiments in the continuous growth of wheat.

"The field is 14 acres in area; 17 plots were finally set out, of about half-an-acre each (0.477 acres to be precise). One plot has remained without manure of any sort since 1839; one has been given farmyard manure every year since 1843; and the others have had artificial fertilisers in various combinations which have been unaltered since 1852, though some of these combinations also go back to 1843."—Extract from a letter from Sir John Russell, Director of Rothamsted, printed in *The Farmers' Weekly*, South Africa, May 7th, 1941.

As was fitting, the first blow of the counter-attack was delivered by Sir Albert Howard when—some two years ago—he asked Sir John Russell whether the seed used on Broadbalk came from that field, or whether seed from outside sources was used. Sir John at once admitted that fresh healthy seed from outside was used every year. While his prompt admission spoke volumes for his intellectual honesty, it said less for his acumen that he did not realise its damaging nature. Sir Albert was quick to point out that the yearly introduction of fresh seed from fertile soil into Broadbalk rendered the experiment scientifically valueless. As Dr. Picton has said: "Broadbalk is not a self-contained experiment." Sir John Russell repeated his admission in the letter to *The Farmers' Weekly* quoted above; but he attempted to justify the practice by saying that it was usual in this country. He did not explain why

Broadbalk, in this one solitary respect, followed the normal farming routine.

The counter-attack was continued in an editorial article ("Science or Advocacy") in the Saints Peter and Paul issue of *The Cross and The Plough*, 1942 (Vol. 8, No. 4); and it is from that article that much of what follows was taken. The quotations from various Rothamsted Annual Reports are headed R.A.R. and the year, those from *The Rothamsted Field Experiments on the Growth of Wheat*, by Sir E. J. Russell and D. J. Watson, Imperial Bureau of Soil Science, Technical Communisation No. 40, are headed T.C.40 and a page reference.

R.A.R., 1893.—"For the crop of 1889 therefore down one half the length of the plots (the top) only alternate rows of wheat were sown, in order, so far as possible, to eradicate this and some other plants, the other (the bottom) being sown in the usual way. For the crop of 1890, on the other hand, the full number of rows were sown on the top half and only alternate rows on the bottom half of each plot in order the better to clean that portion. For the crops of 1891, 1892 and 1893, however, the full number of rows were again sown over the full length of each plot."

T.C.40, p. 57.—"In spite of much hand weeding . . . the weeds increased so much that in 1890 and 1891 the field was partially fallowed by drilling the rows at double width over half the field, to allow of hoeing between the rows."

There seems to be some discrepancy of dates here, and it is not clear whether the years of partial fallowing were '89 and '90, or '90 and '91.

R.A.R., 1905.—"Seasons 1904 and 1905. As the plots were becoming very foul, particularly with *Alopecurus Agrestis* (Black Bent Grass)" (described on page 57 of T.C.40 as "abundant from 1879 onwards"), "they were divided longitudinally and one-half of each was fallowed during the summer of 1904 and the other half is being

fallowed in 1905 in order to clean the plots without breaking the continuity of the experiments."

The words "without breaking the continuity of the experiments" throw a revealing light on the mentality of the Agricultural Scientist who wrote them. Let us suppose a parallel case: There is a widespread belief—whether true or superstitious—that it is physically impossible for a man to eat a whole pigeon on fourteen consecutive days. Suppose some Scientific Institution decides to make an experiment in the Continuous Eating of Pigeons. A dozen men, of average health and physique, are selected and set to eat a pigeon a day for fourteen days. After six days it is found that their digestions are in such a state that something must be done about it. Half of them are rested from pigeon on the seventh day and the other half on the eighth, in order to clean their stomachs "without breaking the continuity of the experiments." By this means—and by copious doses of bicarbonate of soda—the unfortunate men reach the fourteenth day undefeated. The Scientific Institution thereupon publishes the facts and—in the same publication—boasts loudly that the continuous eating of pigeons has been proved to be feasible. Imagine with what gargantuan shouts of laughter the Dieticians of the world would greet such an announcement—based on such "proof"!

R.A.R., 1914.—"The Broadbalk wheat was again poor, the yields being almost identical with those obtained in 1913 The Committee therefore decided to fallow the west or top half of the field in 1914 and the east or bottom half in 1915."

In a Note to this Report we read:—

"As in the two previous seasons (1912 and 1913) owing to the foulness of the land on the upper half of the field the produce here recorded was that obtained on the lower half of the field only."

Here again there seems to be some uncertainty as to whether the top half was fallowed or cropped in 1914.

T.C.40, p. 57.—"During the war and following years, it was extremely difficult to find the skilled labour to look after Broadbalk, and in the period 1914 to 1926

there were some weedy years, the common poppy which first appeared about 1907 being particularly bad."

It is all very well to blame the war for the weedy years, but what about 1912, 1913 and 1914?

R.A.R., 1929.—"In 1926 and 1927 the crop was confined to the lower (eastern) part of the field, the upper being completely fallowed for two years. This was the first complete fallow on this area since the experiment began in 1843."

In view of the above quotation from R.A.R., 1914, it looks, at first sight, as if that statement were quite true; but it isn't—quite. On page 57 of T.C.40 we read:

"In 1926 and 1927 the top *three-fifths of the field* (my italics) was fallowed and in 1928 and 1929 the bottom three-fifths was fallowed."

So the upper part of the field ("this area") referred to in R.A.R., 1929, does not mean the top half, as one might mistakenly think, but the top three-fifths. Since it was only the top two-and-a-half-fifths which were fallowed in 1914, the author of this statement escapes a charge of untruthfulness by a margin of one-tenth of the area of Broadbalk. One is reminded of the Marconi Men—so exactly described by the then Editor of *The Spectator* as "balancing their denials on a pronoun."

T.C.40 continues, on pages 57 and 58:—

"Thus the fallow parts overlapped so that the middle fifth of the field was fallowed for four years. Then in 1930 the whole field was cropped and each of the fifths was harvested separately. From 1931 onwards one fifth has been fallowed each year, the fallow moving from Strip V (east end) up to the west end."

In Sir John Russell's letter to *The Farmers' Weekly*, South Africa, he asked to be allowed to "restate the facts" about Broadbalk. Here is what he wrote about weeds and fallowing:

"There has never been any difficulty about getting a plant, but we have had trouble with weeds." (Surely a masterpiece of understatement). "Since 1925, therefore, the plots have been divided crosswise into five sections, each of which has been fallowed for a year to keep down the weeds."

He makes no mention of the partial fallows of 1889 and 1890 (or 1890 and 1891, in which ever years they really happened); nor of the lengthwise fallow of one half of each plot in 1904 and of the other half in 1905; nor of the failure of the crop on the top half in 1912, 1913 and 1914; nor of the fallow of the top half in 1914/15 and of the bottom half in 1915/16; nor of the two-years fallow of the top two-fifths in 1926 and 1927, the four-years fallow of the middle fifth from 1926 to 1929 and the two-years fallow of the bottom two-fifths in 1928 and 1929. Perhaps exigencies of space prevented his doing so.

On pages 78 and 79 of T.C.40, under the heading "Applications of the Broadbalk methods in practice," two farmers are mentioned; Mr. Prout of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, who farmed for over forty years, using chemical manures exclusively and making money.

"After about 7 or 8 crops of corn had been taken red clover or trifolium was grown for hay without manure, the land was then broken up in preparation for more wheat; occasionally some of it was fallowed . . . There was no evidence of soil deterioration or of accumulating difficulties; no reference to increase (sic) lodging or growing tendency to disease."

Since Mr. Prout never grew more than eight consecutive crops of wheat he did not apply the Broadbalk methods. It would be interesting to have the opinions of his successors on the farm on the question of soil deterioration. The second farmer mentioned was Mr. George Baylis, of Boxford, near Newbury, who devoted his farms to "continuous wheat growing" with chemicals, also made money and, at one time farmed 12,000 acres. I have used inverted commas because the authors of T.C.40 go on to say:

"The land was lighter than Mr. Prout's and so corn and fallow alternated except that once in six years clover was grown in place of fallow, and barley occupied about half the cropped land."

Since corn was never grown on the same land for two consecutive years, the inverted

commas seem justified. It is not clear whether barley occupied half the cropped land every year, or once in six years. Mr. Baylis's methods were even farther removed from Broadbalk than Mr. Prout's. The next paragraph, under the sub-heading "Later applications," runs as follows:

"Later farmers attempted to emulate Mr. Baylis's success and avoid his difficulties by using the large tractors and implements developed in Canada but still keeping to light soils in the eastern and southern counties. The method began well, but in many cases soil-borne diseases, notably 'take-all' which is favoured by light soil conditions, have accumulated and caused considerable difficulty. The disease problems are being studied at Rothamsted, but the economic problems are difficult; their solution turns on finding a profitable use for the straw, which is not yet accomplished."

In other words, Rothamsted is unable to cite anyone except Messrs. Prout and Baylis who have made money over a period of years by anything remotely resembling Broadbalk methods.

Most of Chapter IV of T.C.40 is devoted to an experiment in continuous wheat growing at Woburn in Bedfordshire. In the first paragraph we find:

"The Woburn results are set out in Table 25; the first fifteen years only are given because shortly after that a fall in yield began on some of the plots through an increase in acidity."

The experiment began in 1877 and the Table gives results up to 1891. (To an unscientific person like myself it seems odd that the results of a scientific experiment should not be published because they are poor). On page 75, under the heading "Variations in yield from year to year," we find:

"As at Rothamsted the yields rose for the first few years to a maximum in about 1882 to 1887 and then fell; over the period 1877 to 1901 there was little if any change. After that rapid deterioration set in."

This seems to contradict the previous statement that yields began to fall in 1891. Possibly 1901 is a misprint for 1891?

Apparently the experiment was abandoned in 1926 and the field was fallowed for two years. A second two-year fallow followed in 1934 and 1935. On page 77 the Authors say:

"This closed a 50-year period of continuous corn growing and the whole of the area was fallowed for two years, one year being insufficient to eradicate the weeds which had become very troublesome."

This frank admission that the experiment failed is in curious contrast to the silly and vain attempt to deny that Broadbalk has also failed. A possible—and even probable—explanation is that Woburn never received anything like the same amount of ballyhoo as has been—and is being—lavished on Broadbalk.

On page 153 of T.C.40, under the heading "Continuous wheat growing (2). The Woburn experiments," is printed this amazing sentence:—

"Despite the proof that continuous wheat growing is feasible, it has not come into general practice in Britain."

Where are we to find this "proof"? It is certainly not to be found in T.C.40. On the contrary, that publication contains conclusive proof that, even under the best conditions and in spite of all the resources of Science and Machinery, continuous wheat growing in England is an impossibility. The longest period during which any part of Broadbalk was continuously and fully in wheat was from 1843 to 1890, when the second half of the field was partially fallowed. In his letter to *The Farmers' Weekly*, South Africa, Sir John Russell wrote of Broadbalk:

"It is now carrying its ninety-eighth wheat crop without a break."

A statement which has—to use Professor Salisbury's phrase—"the aspect of a political discussion rather than a sober attempt to form a balanced judgment upon the inferences to be drawn from the ascertained facts."

Non nobis Domine. It is mainly to the untiring efforts of Sir John Russell, Dr. D. J. Watson and the Authors of the various Rothamsted Reports that we owe the complete and final debunking of Broadbalk.

REVIEWS

Two brochures of unusual interest to the Land Movement have reached us during the quarter.

Vincent McNabb, published at Blackfriars, Oxford (1/6), gives in some sixty pages a striking likeness of Father Vincent as a frontispiece and a series of tributes from eminent men, some of which, it must be conceded with regret, are mediocre, and one of which should not have been printed at all. On the whole, however, they are worthy tributes to their great subject.

The second part consists of selections from Father Vincent's writings. They include some of his most poignant thoughts.

A Mechanistic or a Human Society? by Wilfred Wellock (12 Victoria Avenue, Quinton, Birmingham 32, 1/- net), gives in some 30 pages of nervous English almost the whole case for the Return. The argument is familiar to students of the Land Movement, but the capacity for effective statement shown by the author make this brochure a valuable introduction to place in the hands of enquirers.

One brief quotation will illustrate its quality. Of the nature of work Mr. Wellock says "It is an offence against reason that a function which absorbs a major portion of a man's life should be abhorrent and spiritually harmful." Quite so, but we fight on the enemy's chosen ground so often that we think the case for Christian work a rather subtle spiritual one. But it isn't, not primarily. The attack on it is an offence against reason.

We recommend this brochure cordially.

ORDER OF BATTLE: XVII

In Parenthesis

IN the days when everyone knew and accepted the Holy Scriptures, it was a familiar saying that you could prove anything from the Bible.

This difficulty is inherent in any corpus of doctrine which provides for different levels of circumstance and different needs. The teacher is unlike the private person. He must provide alike the immediate palliative—if you

like the panacea—and the final cure. Especially is this the case when his words must be taken to have executive force. When, that is, his office compels him to assume that his instructions will be obeyed.

The teacher in such a position must teach salvation—that is, he must teach the final cure. But if his hearers have departed from the way of salvation on such a scale that an instant return would provoke social disorder, he must also give, by way of parenthesis, such warning as will ensure that all things shall be done decently and in order.

It is the tragedy of mankind that some, wresting whatever scripture may be concerned to their own destruction, will obstinately select the parentheses and ignore the wide and saving sweep of the teaching. Will shout applause of the palliative and leave the unlearned and the unstable in total ignorance that there is a final remedy at all. In particular, this is the tragedy of the mischievous perversions of the Papal social teaching which have disgraced us now for two generations, in England and elsewhere.

The remedy is simple. You begin at the beginning, go on to the end, then stop. And by the light of nature or of Christian morals you keep the parentheses in brackets, and the great sweep of the main teaching in your soul.

If time permitted, it would be easy to show that many of our publicists quote little but parentheses, and never give their hearers a hold of the main argument. Yet the argument of the Encyclicals of Leo XIII, Pius XI and Pius XII is crystal clear.

It is that society is sick unto death, and that the main Christian expedient for a cure is diffused property. That is not open to argument. From Leo XIII, who sums up the whole of his amazing analysis in the words "The law, therefore, should favour ownership" through Pius XI, in the full argument of *Quadragesimo Anno*, who gives the acquisition of property by the proletarian wage-earner as the very purpose of the ample sufficiency of wages on which he insists; to Pius XII, again in the full tide of his argument, who says that as a rule "only that stability that is rooted in one's own holding makes of the family the most vital and most perfect cell of society." There is no parenthesis about all this. But you would not know this

from the blurb. You will not see the doctrine of property raised and made central by these semi-official circles. They remain blandly parenthetical.

It seems necessary to repeat this indictment here, because Mr. Arnold Lunn, in the *Sword of the Spirit* for July, challenges that organisation on its neglect of Distributism: that is, on its neglect of the Papal teaching on the doctrine of diffused property.

In October he was answered by Miss Barbara Ward, who is, we understand, on the staff of *The Economist*.

Mr. Lunn needs no help from us on such a subject, but some independent protest on the general abuse of which this is an example is called for here.

Miss Ward quotes five passages from *Quadragesimo Anno* in support of an apparent contention that nobody knows exactly what Property is. Of these, four are apt examples of parenthetical explanation. The fifth is so damaging to her general position that we can only explain her use of it on the purely feminine ground of wanting to deprive an opponent of the pleasure of it.

One of these is that parenthesis where the Pope says that "ownership, like other elements of social life, is not absolutely rigid."

On the strength of this she raises a general doubt—"What is property to-day?" which she does not resolve.

But the *Catholic* point is clear. Property is the ownership in productive things—of adequate size to be effective—diffused to inhibit abuse—which guarantees to the citizens freedom. That is, freedom from the domination of other human wills. And this is the sense given to it by Distributism. No Catholic is bound to the detailed policy of Distributism, except in so far as it can be shown to be a direct implication of this central teaching. Every Catholic is bound to its essence, which is "The restoration of liberty by the distribution of property."

But Miss Ward (of *The Economist*) says that she is not a Distributist. She says it without any qualification, and for a reason (head counting) which however valid for running clubs or political parties, has no relevance for Catholic doctrine. And being no Distributist in this large sense, she must cease writing, as a *Catholic*, on social justice.